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**PATENT**

**Attorney Docket No.: 2938(203-3646)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Shields et al.

Examiner:

Not Assigned

Serial No.: 10/718,379

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: November 20, 2003

Dated: March 16, 2006

For: ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE/INSULATIVE  
OVER-SHOE FOR TISSUE FUSION

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that copies of the references listed on page 1 is not required since this application was filed after June 30, 2003 pursuant to 51 C.F.R. 1.98. Copies of foreign references and publications listed on pages 2-3 of form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 16, 2006.

Dated: March 16, 2006

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Edward C. Meagher

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
- ☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. **21-0550**.
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. **21-0550**.

[X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

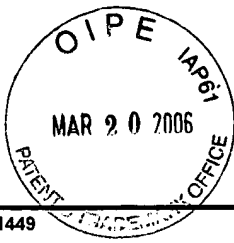


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ECM/gm



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Form PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
IN AN APPLICATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)  
2938(203-3646)Application Number  
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Applicant

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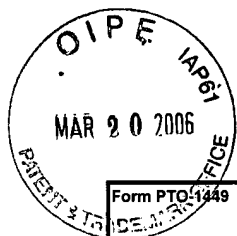
Filing Date  
November 20, 2003Group Art Number  
3739**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	4,416,276	11/22/83	NEWTON ET AL.			
	5,190,541	3/2/93	ABELE ET AL.			
	5,480,409	1/2/96	RIZA			
	5,496,347	3/5/96	HASHIGUCHI ET AL.			
	5,562,699	10/8/96	HEIMBERGER ET AL.			
	5,573,534	11/12/96	STONE			
	5,681,282	10/28/97	EGGERS ET AL.			
	5,810,877	9/22/98	ROTH ET AL.			
	5,893,877	4/13/99	GAMPP, JR. ET AL.			
	6,117,158	9/12/00	MEASAMER ET AL.			
	6,270,497	8/7/01	SEKINO ET AL.			
	6,402,747	6/11/02	LINDEMANN ET AL.			
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	6,733,498	5/11/04	PATON ET AL.			
	6,926,716	8/9/05	BAKER ET AL.			
	6,929,644	8/16/05	TRUCKAI ET AL.			
	US2002/0107517 A1	8/8/02	WITT ET AL.			
	US2003/0078578 A1	4/24/03	Truckai Csaba et al.			
	US2003/0139741 A1	7/24/03	GOBLE ET AL.			
	US2005/0101951 A1	5/12/05	WHAM ET AL.			
	US2005/0113818 A1	5/26/05	SARTOR ET AL.			

Examiner

Date Considered

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with references

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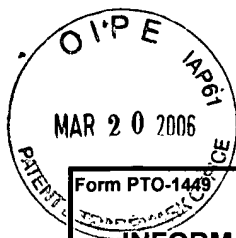
**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
		JP501068	9/1984	Japan				
		JP502328	3/17/92	Japan				
		JP5-40112	2/19/93	Japan				
		JP2001128990A2	5/15/01	Japan				
		JP2001029356A2	2/6/01	Japan				
		JP2001008944A2	1/16/01	Japan				
		JP2000350732A2	12/19/00	Japan				
		JP2000342599A2	12/12/00	Japan				
		JP11244298A2	9/14/99	Japan				
		JP09010223A2	1/14/97	Japan				
		JP08252263A2	10/1/96	Japan				
		JP08056955A2	3/5/96	Japan				
		JP07265328A2	10/17/95	Japan				
		JP06343644A2	12/20/94	Japan				
		SU 401367	11/28/74	Russia				
		DE 19608716	4/17/97	DE				
		DE 29616210	1/2/97	DE				
		DE 19751108	5/20/99	DE				
		DE 2415263	10/2/75	DE				
		WO 00/24331	5/4/00	PCT				
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		WO 02/080784	10/17/02	PCT				
		WO 02/080785	10/17/02	PCT				
		WO 02/080786	10/17/02	PCT				
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		WO 04/073490	9/2/04	PCT				
		WO 04/103156	12/2/04	PCT				
		WO 95/07662	3/23/95	PCT				
		WO 97/10764	3/27/97	PCT				

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"Innovations in Electrosurgery"

Sales/Product Literature; December 31, 2000

LigaSure Vessel Sealing System, the Seal of Confidence in General, Gynecologic, Urologic, and Laparoscopic Surgery

Sales/Product Literature; January, 2004

Olsson et al. "Radical Cystectomy in Females"

Current Surgical Techniques in Urology, Vol. 14, Issue 3, 2001

Dulemba et al. "Use of a Bipolar Electrothermal Vessel Sealer in Laparoscopically Assisted Vaginal Hysterectomy"

Sales Product Literature; January, 2004

Johnson et al. "Evaluation of a Bipolar electrothermal Vessel Sealing Device in Hemorrhoidectomy"

Sales Product Literature; January, 2004

International Search Report PCT/US01/11224

dated November 13, 2001

International Search Report EP 98958575.7

dated September 20, 2002

International Search Report EP 04013772

dated April 1, 2005

International Search Report EP 05013895

dated October 14, 2005

International Search Report EP 05017281

dated November 16, 2005

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